

c1 structurally strong and stable. The radius can be made larger or smaller than 0.05 mm, providing it meets these conditions.

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**In the Claims**

**(Clean Copy as Amended)**

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1. (Twice Amended) A skull pin comprising:

a pin body; and

c2 a pin tip formed from an insulating material, protruding from a proximal end of said pin body; wherein the protruding portion of said pin tip consists of a straight-sided portion and a tapered portion with a rounded tip having a radius in the range of 0.025 to 0.075 mm.

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2. The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said insulating material is a ceramic material.

3. The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said insulating material is an electrical insulator.

4. The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said pin body includes a bore for receiving said pin tip.

5. The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said pin tip includes a bore for receiving said pin body.

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c3 6. (Amended) The skull pin of claim 1, wherein the tapered portion has an angle between 30° and 50°.

7. (Amended) A kit comprising:

a halo; and

a skull pin, wherein said skull pin comprises

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a pin body, and

an insert formed from an insulating material, protruding from a distal end of said pin body wherein the protruding portion of said insert consists of a straight-sided portion and a tapered portion with a rounded tip having a radius in the range of 0.025 to 0.075 mm..

8. The kit of claim 7 wherein said insulating material is a ceramic.

9. (Twice Amended) A kit comprising:

skull tongs; and

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a skull pin, wherein said skull pin comprises

a pin body, and

an insert formed from an insulating material, protruding from a distal end of said pin body wherein the protruding portion of said insert consists of a straight-sided portion and a tapered portion with a rounded tip having a radius in the range of 0.025 to 0.075 mm..

10. The kit of claim 9 wherein said insulating material is a ceramic.

11. The pin of claim 1 wherein said straight-sided portion is cylindrical.

12. The kit of claim 7 wherein said straight-sided portion is cylindrical.

13. The kit of claim 9 wherein said straight-sided portion is cylindrical.

14. The kit of claim 7 wherein the tapered portion has an angle between 30° and 50°.

15. The kit of claim 9 wherein the tapered portion has an angle between 30° and 50°.

16. (New) A skull pin comprising:

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a pin body; and

a pin tip formed from an insulating material, protruding from a proximal end of said pin body;

wherein the protruding portion of said pin tip consists of a straight-sided portion and a tapered portion with a rounded tip; and

wherein the tapered portion has an angle between 30° and 50°.

